

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3, 23 and 26 have been amended to replace every occurrence of "rail" with "guide element." Applicants believe this amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

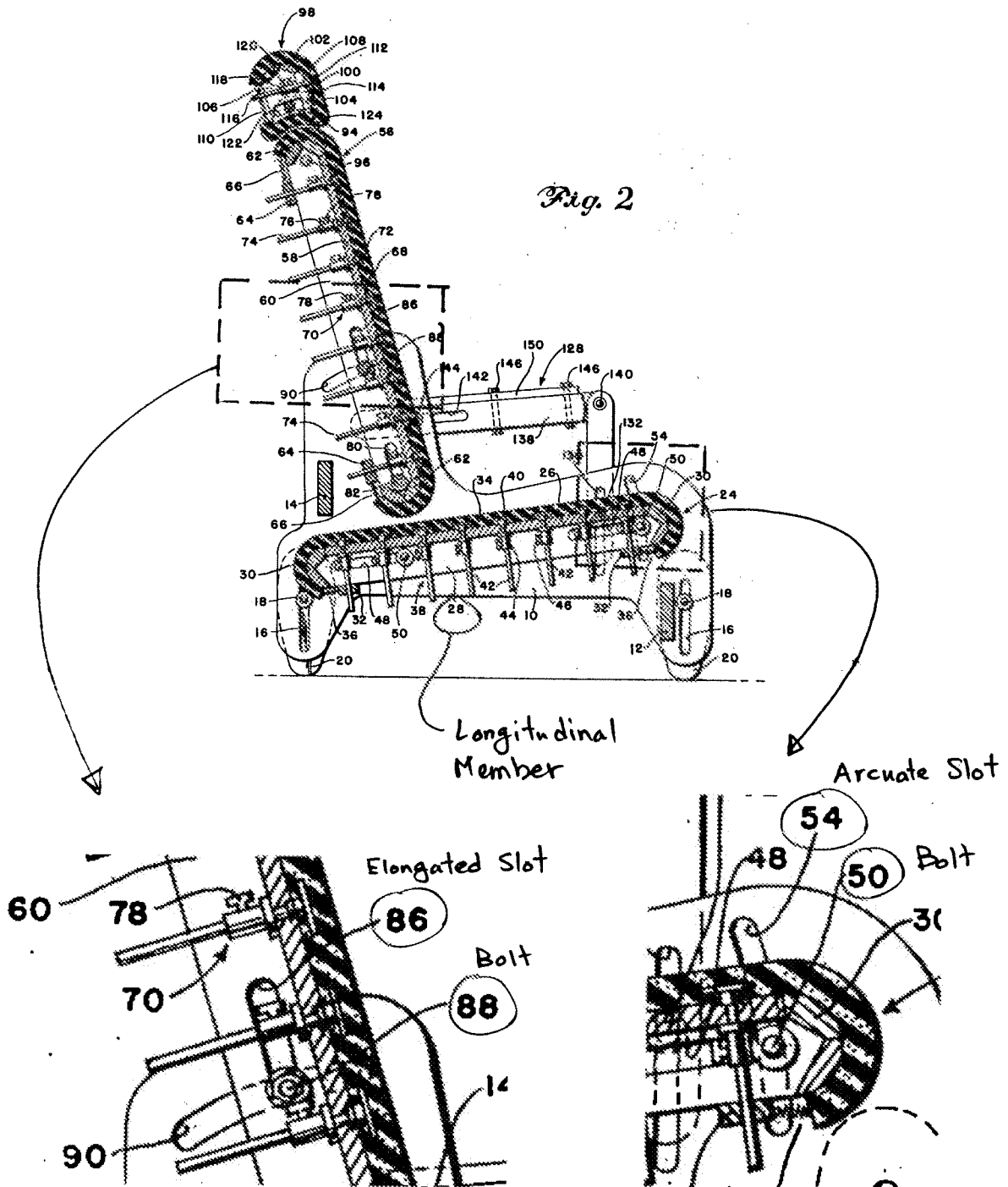
Claims 1-16, 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) over Hibbard, et al. (US 2,549,902). Claim 1 recites "wherein a first sliding guide is formed by a guiding slide provided on the one guide element and a guiding pin provided on the other guide element and that a second sliding guide of the two sliding guides is formed by a guiding pin provided on the one guide element and a guiding slide provided on the other guide element." Thus, claim 1 recites "a guide pin" of a second sliding guide is "provided on the one guide element" and "a guide pin" of "a first sliding guide" is "provided on the other guide element." In contrast, Hibbard, et al., does not teach or suggest the noted limitations of claim 1.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office action, the Examiner states that Hibbard, et al., disclose two guide elements (60, 28), two sliding guides (86, 54) and a guiding pins (50, 88). The Examiner also states that Hibbard et al., discloses "wherein a first sliding guide of the two sliding guides is formed by a guiding slide provided on the one rail and a guiding pin provided on the other rail and that a second sliding guide of the two sliding guides is formed by a guiding pin provided on the one rail and a guiding slide provided on the other rail." (*See Office action, page 3*). Applicants submit that Hibbard, et al., does not teach or suggest that one guide pin is provided on the one guide element and one guide pin is provided on the other guide element. In Hibbard, et al., both parts to which the Examiner refers as guide pins are provided on the seat longitudinal members 28 of Hibbard, et al.

FIG. 2 of Hibbard, et al., is provided below and modified by the Applicants to show two enlarged portions. The Examiner states on page 3 of the Office action that Hibbard et al., discloses a two sliding guides 86 and 54. As shown below, the seat of Hibbard, et al., has an

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elongated slot 86 on the side member 60 and an arcuate slot 54 on the seat longitudinal member 28.



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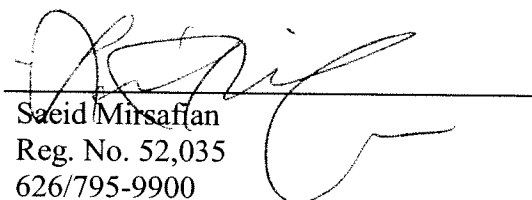
In FIG. 2 of Hibbard, et al., a bolt 88 is provided on the longitudinal member 28 to secure the side member 60, i.e., the seat back, along the elongated slot 86. Another bolt 50 is provided on the longitudinal member 28 to secure the seat bottom along the arcuate slot 54. Accordingly, both bolts 88 and 50 are provided on the longitudinal member 28. Hibbard, et al., does not teach or suggest that one of the bolts 50 or 88 is provided on the longitudinal member 28, while the other bolt 88 or 50 is provided on the side member 60. Accordingly, in contrast to claim 1, Hibbard, et al., fails to teach or suggest "a guide pin" of a second sliding guide is "provided on the one guide element" and "a guide pin" of "a first sliding guide" is "provided on the other guide element." Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 and 18-21 are patentable over Hibbard, et al.

Claims 17 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Hibbard, et al. (US 2,549,902). Applicants believe that because claim 1 is patentable over Hibbard, et al., claims 17 and 22 are also patentable over Hibbard, et al.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, rejections. Applicants believe that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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